

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A pressure generating unit for a biopsy apparatus carrying a biopsy needle unit, comprising:

a cylinder having an interior cylinder wall, a first cylinder space, a second cylinder space, a connector, and a connecting path, the connector being located at a first end of the cylinder adjacent the first cylinder space and configured for connection to the biopsy needle unit, the connecting path extending between the first cylinder space and the second cylinder space;

a piston arrangement including a piston connected to a piston spindle, the piston being movably positioned in the cylinder, a vacuum being generated in the first cylinder space by retracting the piston and the vacuum being released when the piston is positioned adjacent the connecting path; and

an absorbent element carried by the piston, the absorbent element being located in contact against the interior cylinder wall.

9. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein the absorbent element is arranged on a back side of the piston that faces away from the first end of the cylinder, the absorbent element being held in position by a securing disk attached to the piston spindle.

10. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, further comprising a piston spindle drive engaged with the piston spindle to displace the piston in the cylinder, the piston spindle drive being mounted at a second end of the cylinder opposite to the first end of the cylinder having the connector, the absorbent element being located between a back side of the piston and the piston spindle drive.

11. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein the connecting path is an interior groove in the cylinder, and the vacuum is released when the piston and the absorbent element are positioned at the interior groove.

12. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein the absorbent element comprises absorbent chemical pulp.
13. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein the absorbent element is a paper filter.
14. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein the absorbent element is an air-permeable element.
15. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein the absorbent element includes a plurality of absorbent disks.
16. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein a longitudinal extent of the absorbent element in the cylinder is about three millimeters.
17. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein the absorbent element filters air prior to entry into the first cylinder space via the connecting path when the vacuum is released.
18. (New) The pressure generating unit of claim 8, wherein the absorbent element absorbs tissue fluids to prevent a back flow of the tissue fluids from the first cylinder space.